

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-83 were pending in this application. Claims 1-20, 34-57 and 70-83 have been withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention and are cancelled without prejudice in this amendment.

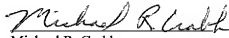
Claims 21-33 and 58-69 directed to a clamp mechanism remain pending and were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for same invention double patenting over identical claims 21-33 and 58-69 in the copending parent application USSN 10/696,830. This rejection has been obviated by a preliminary amendment filed today in USSN 10/696,830 wherein claims 21-33 and 58-69 have been cancelled without prejudice. A copy of the preliminary amendment is provided for the Examiner of the instant application in Appendix A of this paper.

No fees or requests for extensions of time are believed to be due with this paper; however, the Commissioner is authorized to consider this a request for any extension of time necessary and charge our Deposit Account 50-3118 for any additional fees (or credit any over payments) that may be required in association with this communication.

Respectfully submitted,
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Appl. No. 10/823,220
Amdt dated October 24, 2008
Reply to Office Action of Jul. 29, 2008

APPENDIX A

(Copy of Preliminary Amendment filed in related case 10/696,830)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: M. A. Fathallah, et al.

Serial No.: 10/696,830

Filed: October 30, 2003

Title: MEDICAL DEVICE SYSTEM

Attorney Docket No.: 7122USO1

Group Art Unit: 3763

Confirmation No.: 1880

Examiner: VIRDI, SUNDEEP

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Dear Sir:

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the same invention double patenting rejection in a related case, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A system for interlocking a plurality of portable medical devices in a side-by-side relationship, the system comprising:
the plurality of medical devices including a first medical device and a second medical device;
the first medical device including a housing having opposite sides, at least one of the opposite sides including a matable element;
the second medical device including a housing having opposite sides, at least one of the opposite sides of the housing of the second medical device including a matable element for detachably interconnecting to the matable element of the first medical device and attaching the first and second medical devices; and
wherein at least one of the medical devices includes a selective means for restricting the attachment of the second medical device to only one of the opposite sides of the first medical device housing.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the medical devices is provided with only a single matable element, constituting the selective means.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first medical device is provided with two matable elements, one matable element being located on each of the opposite sides of the first medical device housing.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the selective means includes a locking element which restricts attachment of the second medical device to the first medical device to only one of the opposite sides of the first medical device once the first medical device is attached to a support member.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the first medical device includes a clamp mechanism for mounting at least one medical device to a support member.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the clamp mechanism has a hole therein for slidably receiving the locking element, the locking element adapted to apply force on a component of the medical device when the clamp body is affixed to a support member.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the clamp mechanism has a slide-ratcheting means for permitting a user to close the clamp mechanism about the support member by application of linear force to the clamp mechanism.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the medical devices includes a blocking means for preventing a third medical device from attaching to either the first or second medical devices once the first and second medical devices are attached.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the medical devices includes a latch element which detachably locks the first and second medical devices together once the first and second medical devices are attached.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein a release element is operatively associated with the latch element, the release element permitting a user to selectively disengage the latch element.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the first medical device includes the latch element, the first medical device is provided with two matable elements where one matable element is located on each of the opposite sides of the first medical device housing, and wherein the latch element extends from the first medical device housing side that is not adjacent the attached second medical device and is secured in a position which prevents a third medical device from being added to the first medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second medical devices each include a transceiver, the transceivers being aligned for communication between the medical devices once the first and second medical devices are attached.

13. (Original) A system for interlocking a plurality of portable medical devices in a side-by-side relationship, the system comprising:

the plurality of medical devices including a first medical device and a second medical device;

the first medical device including a housing having opposite sides, at least one of the opposite sides including a matable element;

the second medical device including a housing having opposite sides, at least one of the opposite sides of the housing of the second medical device including a matable element for detachably interconnecting to the matable element on the first medical device housing and attaching the first and second medical devices; and

wherein at least one of the medical devices includes a blocking means for preventing a third medical device from attaching to either the first or second medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the at least one of the medical devices is provided with only a single matable element, constituting the blocking means.

15. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the first medical device is provided with two matable elements, a first matable element being located on one of the first medical device housing sides and a second matable element being located on the first medical device housing opposite side.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the blocking means includes a blocking element associated with the first medical device which blocks attachment of a third medical device to the first medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

17. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein at least one of the medical devices

includes a latch element which detachably locks the first and second medical devices together once the first and second medical devices are attached.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein a release element is operatively associated with the latch element, the release element permitting a user to selectively disengage the latch element.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the first medical device includes the latch element, the first medical device is provided with two matable elements where one matable element is located on each of the first medical device housing opposite sides, and wherein the blocking means includes the latch element which extends from the first medical housing side that is not adjacent the attached second medical device, the latch element being secured in a position which prevents a third medical device from being added to the first medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

20. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the first and second medical devices each include a transceiver, the transceivers being aligned for communication between the medical devices once the first and second medical devices are attached.

Claims 21-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Original) A first portable medical device adapted for use in an interlocking system for interlocking the first medical device to a second medical device in a side-by-side relationship, the first medical device comprising:

- a housing having opposite sides, at least one of the opposite sides including a matable element adapted to detachably interconnect a second medical device to the first medical device; and
- a selective means for restricting the attachment of the second medical device to only one of the opposite sides of the first medical device housing.

35. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the first medical device is provided with only a single matable element, constituting the selective means.

36. (Original) The medical device of claim 35, further comprising a pump mechanism located opposite the single matable element on the housing.

37. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the first medical device is provided with two matable elements, one matable element being located on each of the housing opposite sides.

38. (Original) The medical device of claim 37, further comprising two pump mechanisms, one pump mechanism being located on each of the housing opposite sides.

39. (Original) The medical device of claim 37, wherein the selective means includes a locking element which restricts attachment of the second medical device to the first medical device to only one of the opposite sides of the first medical device once the first medical device is attached to a support member.

40. (Original) The medical device of claim 39, wherein the first medical device includes a clamp mechanism for mounting at least one medical device to a support member.

41. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the clamp mechanism has a hole therein for slidably receiving the locking element, the locking element adapted to apply force on a component of the first medical device when the clamp body is affixed to a support member.

42. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the clamp mechanism has a slide-ratcheting means for permitting a user to close the clamp mechanism about the support member by application of linear force to the clamp mechanism.

43. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the first medical device includes a blocking means for preventing a third medical device from attaching to either the first or second medical devices once the first and second medical devices are attached.

44. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the first medical device

includes a latch element which detachably locks the first and second medical devices together once the first and second medical devices are attached.

45. (Original) The medical device of claim 44, wherein a release element is operatively associated with the latch element, the release element permitting a user to selectively disengage the latch element.

46. (Original) The medical device of claim 44, wherein the first medical device includes the latch element, the first medical device is provided with two matable elements where one matable element is located on each of the first medical device housing opposite sides, and wherein the latch element extends from the first medical device housing side that is not adjacent the attached second medical device and is secured in a position which prevents a third medical device from being added to the first medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

47. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the first medical device includes a transceiver, the transceiver being adapted to communicate with a corresponding transceiver on the second medical device, the transceiver and corresponding transceiver being aligned for communication between the medical devices once the first and second medical devices are attached.

48. (Original) A first portable medical device adapted for use in an interlocking system for interlocking the first medical device to a second medical device in a side-by-side relationship, the first medical device comprising:
a housing having opposite sides, at least one of the opposite sides including a matable element adapted to detachably interconnect a second medical device to the first medical device; and
a blocking means for preventing a third medical device from attaching to the first medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

49. (Original) The medical device of claim 48, wherein the first medical device is provided with only a single matable element, constituting the blocking means.

50. (Original) The medical device of claim 49, further comprising a pump mechanism located opposite the single matable element on the housing.

51. (Original) The medical device of claim 48, wherein the first medical device is provided with two matable elements, one matable element being located on each of the opposite sides of the first medical device housing.

52. (Original) The medical device of claim 51, further comprising two pump mechanisms, one pump mechanism being located on each of the first medical device housing opposite sides.

53. (Original) The medical device of claim 51, wherein the blocking means includes a blocking element associated with the first medical device which blocks attachment of a third medical device to the first medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

54. (Original) The medical device of claim 51, wherein the first medical device includes a latch element which detachably locks the first and second medical devices together once the first and second medical devices are attached.

55. (Original) The medical device of claim 54, wherein a release element is operatively associated with the latch element, the release element permitting a user to selectively disengage the latch element.

56. (Original) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the first medical device is provided with two matable elements where one element is located on each of the first medical device housing opposite sides, and wherein the blocking means includes the latch element which extends from the first medical device housing side that is not adjacent the attached second medical device, the latch element being secured in a position which prevents a third medical device from being added to the first medical device once the first and second medical devices are attached.

57. (Original) The medical device of claim 48, wherein the first medical device includes a transceiver, the transceiver being adapted to communicate with a corresponding transceiver on the second medical device, the transceiver and corresponding transceiver being aligned for communication between the medical devices once the first and second medical devices are attached.

Claims 58-69 (Cancelled)

70. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 47, wherein the transceivers are adapted to communicate wirelessly to with other.

71. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 70, wherein the transceivers are infrared transceivers.

72. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the matable element on the first medical device includes a ramped portion allowing the matable element on the first medical device to mate with the matable element on the second medical device when said matable elements are not precisely aligned.

73. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the matable element on the second medical device includes a tapered portion allowing the matable element on the first medical device to mate therewith when said matable elements are not precisely aligned.

74. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the matable elements are corresponding male T-slides and female T-slots.

75. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 13, wherein the matable element on the first medical device includes a ramped portion allowing the matable element on the second medical device to mate therewith when said matable elements are not precisely aligned.

76. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 13, wherein the matable element on the second medical device includes a tapered portion allowing the matable element on the first medical device to mate therewith when said matable elements are not precisely aligned.

77. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 13, wherein matable elements are corresponding male T-slides and female T-slots.

78. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the matable element includes a ramped portion allowing the matable element to detachably interconnect a second medical device to the first medical device when the second medical device and first medical device are not precisely aligned.

79. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the matable element includes a tapered portion allowing the matable element to detachably interconnect a second medical device to the first medical device when the second medical device and first medical device are not precisely aligned.

80. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the matable element is a T-slot.

81. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 48, wherein the matable element includes a ramped portion allowing the matable element to detachably interconnect a second medical device to the first medical device when the second medical device and first medical device are not precisely aligned.

82. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 48, wherein the matable element includes a tapered portion allowing the matable element to detachably interconnect a second medical device to the first medical device when the second medical device and first medical device are not precisely aligned.

83. (Original) A medical device in accordance with claim 48, wherein the matable element is a T-slot.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to a same invention double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 in the related case USSN 10/823,220 (Attorney Docket No. 7122USP1), which is a continuation-in-part of the present application, Applicants hereby cancel without prejudice claims 21-33 and 58-69 in the present application.

No fees or requests for extension of time are believed to be due in connection with this paper; however, the Commissioner is authorized to consider this a request for any additional extension of time and to charge our Deposit Account 50-3118 for any additional fees (or credit any over payments) that may be required in association with this communication for which full payment has not been tendered.

Applicants respectfully request that this application be favorably considered and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued on the remaining claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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